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## **Nature Boardwalk at Lincoln Park Zoo Receives Mayor Daley's GreenWorks Award: Sustainable Innovation in a Built Environment**

*Chicago (Dec. 2, 2010)* — Nature Boardwalk at Lincoln Park Zoo was awarded Mayor Daley's GreenWorks Award for Sustainable Innovation in a Built Environment for its positive contribution to Chicago's Climate Action Plan. The award, presented last night by City of Chicago Commissioner of the Environment Suzanne Malec-McKenna, recognizes projects that successfully implement sustainable building and urban design to reduce environmental impact.



Nature Boardwalk serves as a model for providing a natural ecosystem in the heart of the city where wildlife abounds and the community can connect with nature in a serene oasis.

Opened to the public in June 2010, this \$12 million, 14-acre endeavor completely transformed and revitalized Lincoln Park's South Pond – a body of water that was once shallow, unnatural and dilapidated.

It is now a lush, immersive ecosystem featuring prairie grasses, wildflowers and wetland vegetation. The water was deepened to create a more enticing and sustainable environment for a variety of local wildlife. A half-mile boardwalk, made entirely from recycled and sustainable materials, surrounds the pond providing visitors 360-degree opportunities to enjoy the oasis.

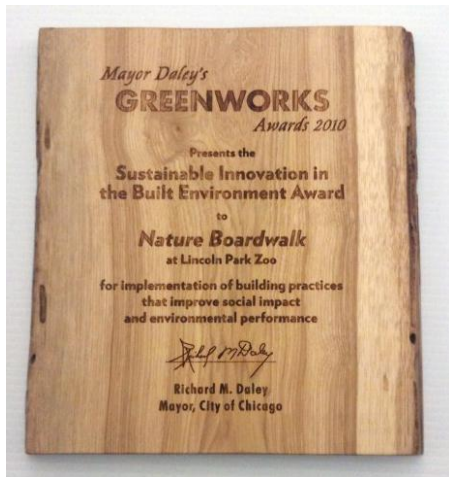
Nature Boardwalk is a free asset for the community with a profound positive impact on the environment. In addition to all materials being reused or recycling during demolition and construction of the ecosystem, it is estimated to save approximately 10 million gallons of water

every year. For the first time in the pond's 140-year history, it is sustainable for wildlife, allowing fish, frogs and turtles to overwinter and thrive.

Nature Boardwalk serves as an outdoor, environmental classroom for hundreds of school children every year. Zoo educators and biologists engage local students in environmental studies to increase understanding and appreciation for science and nature.



During the summer season, educators host daily tours and talks that serve as fun and engaging educational experiences, with hands-on opportunities to learn and interact. Also available in the summer are adult and family-oriented programs such as yoga, and overnight camping.



Nature Boardwalk at Lincoln Park Zoo has been made possible through the support and generosity of the Chicago Park District, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Brooks McCormick, Robert R. McCormick Foundation, Peoples Gas, The Regenstein Foundation, the Women's Board of Lincoln Park Zoological Society as well as the generosity of numerous zoo friends and other private and corporate foundations.

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### **ABOUT CHICAGO'S LINCOLN PARK ZOO**

Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo, a historic landmark founded in 1868, is dedicated to connecting people with nature by providing a free, family-oriented wildlife experience. A leader in conservation science both globally and locally, the zoo exemplifies the highest quality animal care and educational outreach. The not-for-profit zoo, managed by The Lincoln Park Zoological Society, is a member-supported organization and one of the nation's only free, privately managed zoos. For more information, call (312)742-2000 or visit [www.lpzoo.org](http://www.lpzoo.org).